

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A charging device comprising:

a charging roller having a metal cylinder and an elastic layer located on the metal cylinder;

a cleaner configured to clean the charging roller, comprising:

an electroconductive brush roller comprising:

a roller having a shaft;

hair located overlying the roller,

wherein the hair includes a fiber which has a width of from 0.1 to 20 denier, and a length of from 0.3 to 2.5 mm and which is planted at a density of from 7,000 to 46,000 lines/cm², and

a member configured to impart substantially a same potential as that of the charging roller to the electroconductive brush roller when a bias voltage is applied to the charging roller wherein the member comprises a blade spring configured to connect the shaft of the roller of the electroconductive brush roller with a shaft of the charging roller.

Claim 2 (Original): The charging device according to Claim 1, wherein the electroconductive brush roller has an electric resistance of from 10 to 10⁸ Ω.

Claim 3 (Original): The charging device according to Claim 1, wherein the fiber is a nylon fiber.

Claim 4 (Original): The charging device according to Claim 1, wherein the hair is subjected to a back coat treatment.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Original): The charging device according to Claim 1, wherein the electroconductive brush roller rotates together with the charging roller while being driven by the charging roller.

Claim 7 (Original): The charging device according to Claim 1, wherein the electroconductive brush roller rotates so as to counter the charging roller at a contact point thereof.

Claim 8 (Original): The charging device according to Claim 1, wherein the cleaner further comprises an oscillating device configured to oscillate the electroconductive brush roller in a longitudinal direction thereof.

Claim 9 (Original): The charging device according to Claim 1, wherein the cleaner further comprises a one-way clutch provided on the shaft of the roller.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A cleaner for cleaning a charging roller, comprising:
an electroconductive brush roller comprising:
a roller having a shaft; and
hair located on the roller,

wherein the hair includes a fiber which has a width of from 0.1 to 20 denier, and a length of from 0.3 to 2.5 mm and which is planted ~~at~~ with a density of from 7,000 to 46,000 lines/cm², and

a member configured to impart substantially a same potential as that of the charging roller to the electroconductive brush roller when a bias voltage is applied to the charging roller wherein the member comprises a blade spring configured to connect the shaft of the roller of the electroconductive brush roller with a shaft of the charging roller.

Claim 11 (Original): A process cartridge comprising:
an image bearing member; and
a charger configured to charge the image bearing member,
wherein the charger is the charging device according to Claim 1.

Claim 12 (Original): An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image bearing member;
a charger configured to charge the image bearing member;
a light irradiator configured to irradiate the charged image bearing member with imagewise light to form an electrostatic latent image on the image bearing member;
a developing device configured to develop the electrostatic latent image with a developer including a toner to form a toner image on the image bearing member;
a transferring device configured to transfer the toner image onto a receiving material;
and
a fixing device configured to fix the toner image on the receiving material,
wherein the charger is the charging device according to Claim 1.

Claim 13 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the toner has a volume average particle diameter (D_v) of from 3 to 8 μm , and a ratio (D_v/D_n) of the volume average particle diameter (D_v) to a number average particle diameter (D_n) of from 1.00 to 1.40.

Claim 14 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein each of form factors SF-1 and SF-2 of the toner is greater than 100 and not greater than 180.

Claim 15 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the toner is prepared by a method comprising:

dispersing or dissolving toner constituents including at least a polyester prepolymer having a functional group having a nitrogen atom, a polyester resin, a colorant, and a release agent in an organic solvent to prepare a toner constituent liquid; and

dispersing the toner constituent liquid in an aqueous medium including a compound capable of reacting the functional group of the polyester prepolymer to perform at least one of crosslinking reaction and elongation reaction of the polyester prepolymer and to form toner particles in the aqueous medium.

Claim 16 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the toner satisfies the following relationships:

$$0.5 \leq r_2/r_1 \leq 1.0; \text{ and}$$

$$0.7 \leq r_3/r_2 \leq 1.0,$$

wherein r₁ represents a major-axis particle diameter of the toner, r₂ represents a minor-axis particle diameter of the toner and r₃ represents a thickness of the toner, wherein r₃ \leq r₂ \leq r₁.